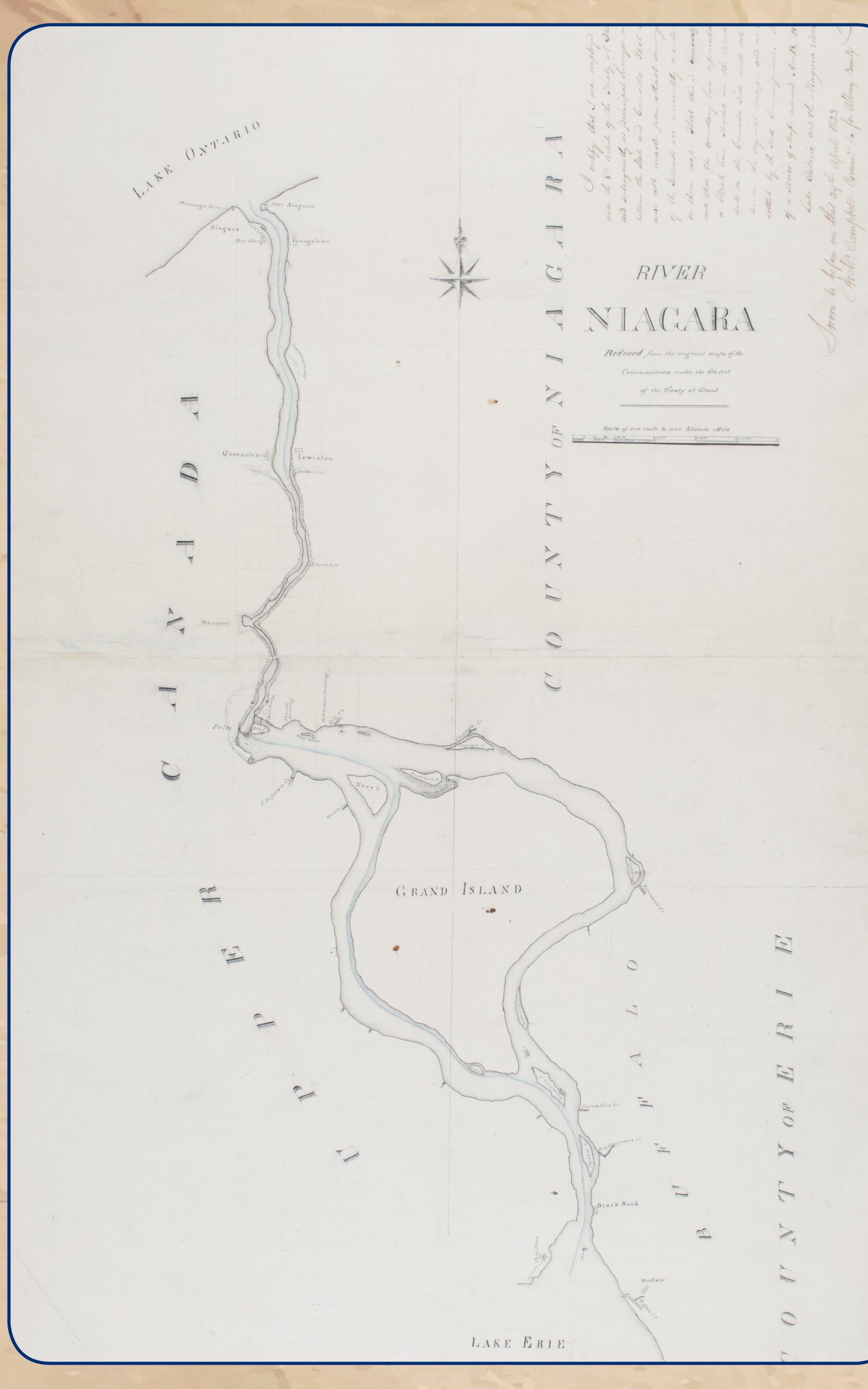
Conflicting Territorial Claims

Many disputes over territories between New York and Massachusetts were settled when the former British colonies gave up claims to land that stretched as far west as the Mississippi River. Overlapping land claims that still existed after 1785 were settled by a convention of commissioners in 1786. As part of that settlement, New York was granted ownership of a one-mile-wide strip of land along the eastern bank of the Niagara River's entire length, known as the "Mile Reserve."



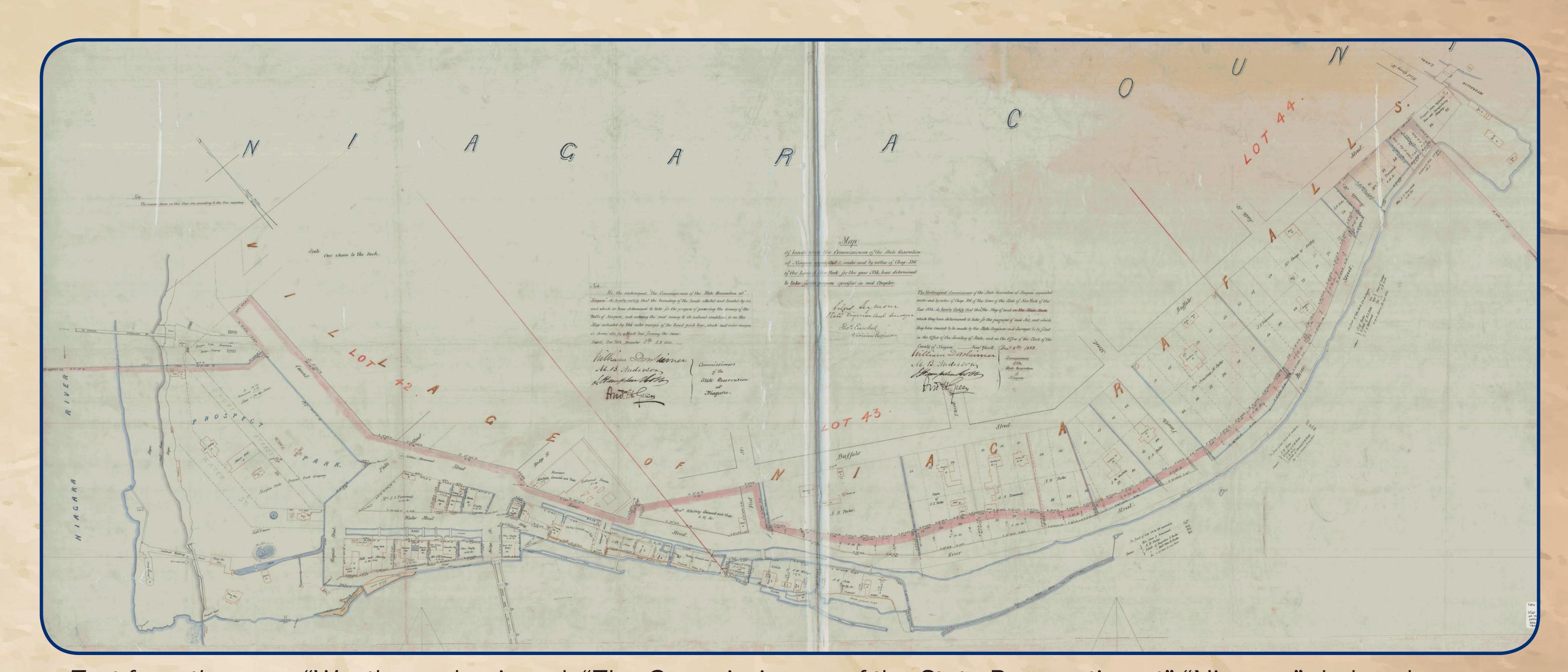


The War of 1812 & Grand Island

The 1814 Treaty of Ghent, which formally ended the War of 1812 between the United State and Great Britain, was among the treaties that established the midstream of the Niagara River as the boundary line between the United States and Canada. A boundary survey performed in 1822 determined Grand Island, the largest island along the river at more than 17,000 acres in size, was part of the United States.

Village of Niagara Falls

Chapter 336 of the Laws of New York for the Year 1883 authorized the selection, location and appropriation of land in the village of Niagara Falls for a state reservation and to preserve the scenery at the falls.



Text from the map: "We, the undersigned, "The Commissioners of the State Reservation at" "Niagara," do hereby certify that the boundary of the lands selected and located by us, and which we have determined to take of the purpose of preserving the scenery of the Falls of Niagara, and restoring the said scenery to its natural condition..."

Town of Lewiston



One of the first European settlements in Western New York, Lewiston's strategic location near Niagara Falls gave it an important role in the development of commercial trade in the Great Lakes region and in the War of 1812. New York State began surveying and dividing the "Mile Reserve" along the Niagara River into lots in the late 1700s. The survey of street and building lots for a 1-square-mile village to be named Lewis Town after Governor Morgan Lewis was finished by 1805.

The village was also an important stop on the Underground Railroad for fugitive slaves who were escorted from Lewiston to Canada.